

## Big Sir's Notes

Bill Holly

We have had seven new members join Branch 146 during the months of March and April. Our recruitment efforts have been strong which bodes well for the overall vitality of our branch.

In March we had two members join our branch. They were **Larry Gray** sponsored by **Ben Gleason** and **James Pope** sponsored by **Jim Stedman**.

In April we had five new members join our branch. They were **Larry Brown** sponsored by **Jeff Baily**, **Tom Flosi** sponsored by **Terry Marchione**, **John Foster** sponsored by **Dennis Hallett**, and **Richard Lyon** and **Fred Reich** both sponsored by **Corrie Oranje**. **Fred** and **Richard** are father and son, which I believe is a first for Branch 146.

The good news is that phase one of the interior clubhouse renovations at Boundary Oak is essentially complete. As I drove by last week I could see a slightly darker paint color being applied on the outside, so everything appears to be ready for our return to Boundary Oak in May.

As we return to the Boundary Oak the dates for our luncheons will return to the second Thursday of the month. This also means that the deadline for reporting an absence from the luncheon or for notifying the luncheon chairman that you are bringing a guest will be 12:00 noon the Friday before the luncheon.

On Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> we will have our traditional Ladies Day Luncheon at Boundary Oak. Remember, attendance at the Ladies Day luncheons is by reservation only. The cost of the luncheon is \$28 per person and the deadline for submitting your reservation is Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send your check for \$28 single or \$56 per couple to **Steve Dawkins**, 117 Alegra Ln., Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Do it right away so you aren't required to send it via Federal Express.

The popular Book Nook will return at the Ladies Day Luncheon. **Hank James** informs me that he no longer

## Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Boundary Oak Clubhouse

Entertainment By:

"HouseBlend"

Gathering time – 10:45 am

Seating time - 11:45 am

*Make Reservations with Steve Dawkins by May 1st. Reservation form on Page 3*

The entertainment for the May Ladies Day Luncheon is "HouseBlend"



"HouseBlend" is an a cappella male quartet performing its own pop, jazz, seasonal, folk, country, and other assorted musical genres

needs to “pump iron” to stay fit, but he sure would like some help setting up our book exchange during the odd months. If you are fit and want to become more active in SIR, this would be an excellent opportunity to support our branch.

Finally, if you know someone who might be interested in joining our branch, bring him as a guest to our next regular luncheon on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.



### Little Sir’s Corner

#### Walt Busenius

May is the beautiful time when we bring our ladies to a celebration that we know as the gala Ladies Day Luncheon. This year it is being held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Boundary Oak Clubhouse.

An outstanding musical group, “HouseBlend”, will entertain us and a special menu has been planned by **Steve Dawkins**.

“HouseBlend” is a local a cappella male quartet performing its own pop, jazz, seasonal, folk, country, and other assorted musical genres. Always in a rich a cappella harmony, the quartet moves with ease through a myriad of musical styles with an abundance of rhythm and humor.

In 1998, “HouseBlend” was born, having met while participating in a local church’s music ministry. Almost immediately, they were in demand to sing at various occasions in the area. Their repertoire expanded with each performance, their style emerged and their sleek presentation unfolded.

“HouseBlend” has won awards at the prestigious San Francisco Harmony Sweepstakes in each of the five times that they have competed. Twice this has included the Audience Favorite award.

Please be sure to send your reservation, entree choices, and payment by May 1<sup>st</sup> to **Steve Dawkins** so you and yours don't miss this exciting event! The reservation form is found on page 3 of this Sir Call. There is not much time left. As always, singles are welcome and **Steve** will take care of seating arrangements.

At this time, I wish to commend **Steve Dawkins** for his hard work in organizing our Ladies Day Luncheons. Thanks **Steve**.

Please remember that starting with this May Ladies Day Luncheon and for the remainder of 2015, we return to our second Thursday of the month meeting schedule at Boundary Oak Clubhouse.

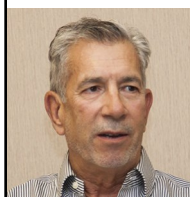


### Membership

#### Ben Gleason

At our BEC meeting on April 20, we approved five new members and accepted the resignation of one active member. One active member has moved out of the area and is on inactive status pending a possible transfer to a new branch. We now have 277 active members (including our seven Honorary Life Members). One of our new members, **Fred Reich**, has transferred to our Branch from Branch 17 in Santa Rosa where he had been an active member for over 22 years.

#### New Member Additions in April 2015



Tom Flosi



John Foster

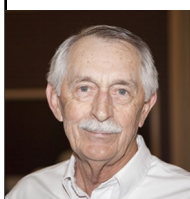


Richard Lyon

Larry Brown

Fred Reich

#### New Member Additions in March 2015



Larry Gray



Jim Pope

#### Status Changes in April 2015

Resigned:

**Mal Hendry**

Inactive:

**Steve Conte**

#### SIR Call Newsletter Group

Editor

**Richard Hockenbrock**

Assistant Editor

**Jeff Baily**

Proofreaders

**Jeff Baily, Cal Tucker**

**Jonathan Korfhage, & Pat Lucia**

Labeling & Mailing

**Bill Cammerer**

Internet Posting

**Ron Plachy**



# Gala Ladies Day Luncheon

## Salad

### Baby Iceberg Salad

Tomatoes, Bacon,  
Crumbled Blue Cheese, Chive Ranch Dressing

## Entrees

### Sliced New York Strip Loin

Pan Seared & Marinated New York Strip Loin Seasonal  
Vegetables, Scalloped Potatoes Green Pepper Corn  
Sauce

Or

### Cannelloni

Stuffed Pasta with Spinach, Ground Beef, Ricotta  
Cheese, Tomato Basil Sauce

## Dessert

### Napoleon

Raspberry Sauce, Crème Anglaise, Fresh Berries

*To use the form below, print this whole page then fill in  
your information by hand. Cut along the dotted line and  
send it with your check to the address below.*

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Number of Tickets \_\_\_ at \$28 \_\_\_ ea.

Enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Names**

**Entrée choices**

1)	
2)	
3)	
4)	
5)	
6)	
7)	
8)	
9)	
10)	

Make checks payable to Branch 146. Send to: **Steve Dawkins**, 117 Alegra Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

All reservations and payments in full must be received by May 1st. There will be no tickets sold at the door.

If ordering for a full or partial table, list your names and seating guests. Your guests will be paired with you when their check and form is received or you may pay for them directly on your sheet listing their name & entrée.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Joseph Campbell, Board President of the Contra Costa Water District, gave a very formative update on the district's ten year water plan and insights and responses he has seen to the governor's mandated water usage program

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Jim Burk** takes over for SIR greeter **Jonathan Korfhage**, who was vacationing in April. Jim may not be as tall as Jonathan but he makes up for it with his colorful hat



## SIR 146 Hiking

**Rich Ahlf**

Our next hike will be to Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. This is an easy flat 5 mile loop along San Pablo Bay. This loop trip follows the Bay View Trail to the tip of the point and returns via the Marsh and Cook's Point trails  
Directions: From Interstate 80 in Pinole, take the Richmond

Parkway/Fitzgerald Drive exit and follow Richmond Pkwy. West 2 miles to the Giant Highway exit. After exiting, go 0.5 mile to a stop sign, turn right, and go another 0.2 miles to Giant Highway. Turn right and follow Giant Highway as it jogs left, crosses railroad tracks, and jogs right for a total of 0.7 miles to the park entrance, left. Go 0.1 mile to the entrance kiosk, then turn left into the parking area. The trailhead is at the northwest corner of the parking area.

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Hike Starts at 10:00 am

**Rich Ahlf**

Cell 925-550-4967

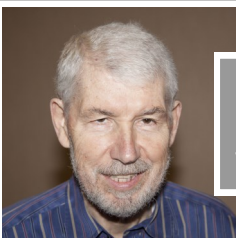
Rain Cancels

Spouses always welcome

Photo by Rich Ahlf



Briones Regional Park Hike — Dog Lucky, Rich Ahlf, Walter Schmidt, Pete Gates, Gary Brown, Gene Schulting, Bobbie Schmidt and Ismini MacLean



Martin Harper, who joined SIR in February, was the birthday drawing winner at the April 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon

## Walking Schedule

**John Lewis**

*Every Friday at 9:30 am  
at various locales.  
Call **John** or just show up.  
Rain cancels any walk.*



May walks planned by **Martin Lyle**

### May Walks 2015

- May 1<sup>st</sup>** Railroad Museum North  
Meet: At Railroad Museum Danville  
Walk: North on Iron Horse Trail  
Coffee: Pascal French Oven
- May 8<sup>th</sup>** Heather Farms East  
Meet: At end of Heather Farms parking  
Walk: East along Contra Costa Canal  
Coffee: Sweet Affair Ygnacio Plaza
- May 15<sup>th</sup>** Lafayette Moraga Trail  
Meet: At parking lot near end of Olympic Blvd.  
Walk: West on Lafayette Moraga Trail  
Coffee: Panera Bread, 1140 Locust, W.C.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Lafayette Trail East  
Meet: Lafayette Community Center  
Walk: St. Mary's Rd. Toward Walnut Creek  
Coffee: Terzetto Cuisine: Moraga Ctr. Moraga
- May 29<sup>th</sup>** Larkey Park Trail Walnut Creek  
Meet: Museum parking lot. 1st & Buena Vista  
Walk: West on trail  
Coffee: Panera Bread: Bancroft & Treat

### SIR Happenings Newsletter

*SIR Happenings is the statewide SIR newsletter. Click on the link in the SIR 146 webpage to read the current issue. You may enjoy reading about the activities of other branches.*





## Fishing Report

**Paul Dubow**

Trout fishing was again the dominant theme this month and San Pablo Reservoir is the primary place to go. **Dick Grube** was the most successful. He caught two rainbows over ten pounds! He also caught a five pound black bass.

However, he was trolling. The rest of us confined ourselves to fishing with the anchors down. Nevertheless, every one of us enjoyed our outings. Members of the group who came away with trout from San Pablo included **Rich Fiscina** and **Paul Dubow** of Branch 146 plus **Terry Miller**, **Gordon Linebaugh**, **Barry Rauchle**, **Ernie Wong**, **Harry Sherinian**, and **Carl Moyer**.

We also made a rare pilgrimage to Los Vaqueros Reservoir that resulted in every fishermen catching limits. **Pete Gates** and **Steve Loftin** of Branch 146 were in this group, along with **Bruce Persons** and **Ken Konzak**.

Our only dissatisfied trout fishermen was **Carl Moyer**, who was skunked fishing from shore at Shadow Cliffs Reservoir. On top of that, **Carl** was skunked fishing on opening day of the salmon season out of Moss Landing.

In the Delta, **Rich Fiscina** and **Tom Boltz** of Branch 146 along with **Terry Miller**, **Harry Sherinian**, **Mike Corker**, and **Tom Kostik** landed quite a few stripers, including a few keepers.

Elsewhere, **Harry Sherinian** and **Carl Moyer** caught one small shaker halibut from the Berkeley Flats in San Pablo Bay and **Ernie Wong** scouted Pyramid Lake in Nevada for the group and caught several large cutthroat trout. That led the group to plan an outing there in October.

Our next meeting will be at 8:30 am on Thursday, May 28, at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. But please join us for breakfast at 7:30 am. For further information, feel free to call **Paul Dubow** at 415-495-6504.



Photo by Roy Hodgkinson



## Photography Group

**Richard Hockenbrock**

It was a busy end of April for the Photography Group. On Monday evening, April 20<sup>th</sup> **Bill Holly**, **Roy Hodgkinson**, **Richard Ahlf**, and **Richard Hockenbrock** ventured to Treasure Island to photograph the SF skyline and the Bay bridges at nighttime. It was cold and windy but all of us captured some very good night shots, many of which can be viewed in this report or on the sir146.com website.

On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at our regularly scheduled meeting we reviewed the best of the photos we had taken. We all learned something from the experience; 1) just because your camera is on a tripod doesn't mean it is a completely stationary object in the wind, 2) turn off your lens stabilization when your camera is on a tripod, 3) remember the difference between the focus ring and the zoom ring on your lens.

### Future Meeting Schedule

May 15th	Third Friday of the month
June 19th	Third Friday of the month
July	No meeting
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Switching to fourth Friday of the month for future meetings

Photo by Rich Ahlf "Silhouette of Golden Gate Bridge"

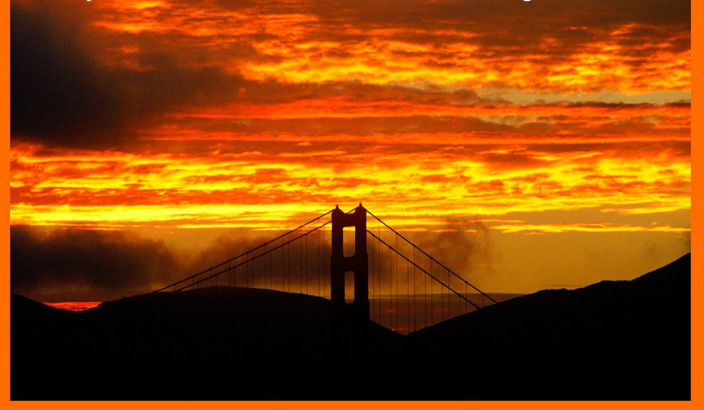


Photo by Bill Holly





Photo by Carl Tilchen

## Acoustic Musicians

**Carl Tilchen**

The next meeting of the Acoustic Music Group is scheduled for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm. We will continue to practice “Act Naturally” for a performance at a future luncheon of all the SIR members.

Directions: from 680, work your way to the intersection of South Broadway and Newell Ave, drive east on Newell Ave to San Miguel Dr., right on Blackwood Dr., slight left staying on Blackwood Dr., sharp right to 2177 Ward Drive. Call 925-864-2641 or 925-786-7909 if you get lost.

*Our Acoustic Musicians group welcomes all guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bass musicians where the objective is to enjoy our music. All skill levels are welcome. Spouses & singers are also encouraged to attend. Please bring your instrument and any songs you enjoy. If you have music events to share, please bring the info to the meeting. We meet every month at **Alan Elnick's** home on 2177 Ward Drive, Walnut Creek. Contact me at [carltilchenmusic391@gmail](mailto:carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com)*

*I am a singer/songwriter with an active musical career. I have facilitated many musical groups and I will be glad to lead this group. Alan and I welcome your suggestions to make our group comfortable and fun for all.*

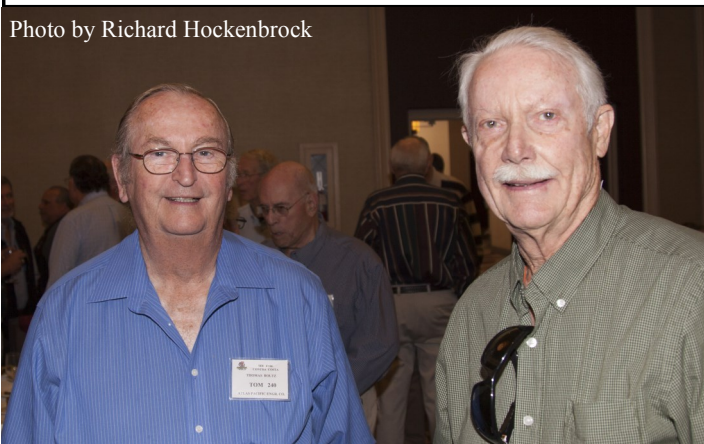


Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Tom Boltz & Chuck Cornell pause for a photo



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

## Mexican Train Dominoes

**Group DOS**

**Dick Woodman**

MTD2 group gathered in April at **John and Nancy Pearl's**. Everything was very enjoyable and we appreciate our member's great hosting talents! The winners for

April will be announced in the May Sir Call as will the winner's for our first “semi-annual” pot.

The May meeting will complete our first five month pot. We understand from the first Mexican Train Domino group that the first and second pots for each year unfold very differently and we are looking forward to experiencing our first full whole year.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Steve Loftin & Stan Stricherz having lively conversation at the April 20th luncheon





## Poker Group 1

**Dan O'Sullivan**

Poker Club #1 met at the residence of **Frank McNamee** April 8<sup>th</sup> to see who might be able to get some financial assistance with their payment to the IRS. It turned out that our guest, **Rich Hanford**, was the big winner and **John Lewis** came in a distant second. Our next gathering will be at the home of **Pete McNeil** on May 13<sup>th</sup>.



## Poker Group 5

**Bill Roberts**

*Poker Group 5 meets the Wednesday prior to the SIR luncheon. **Bill Roberts** is the permanent host for our event. The regular players going forward are **Bill Roberts, Bob Spellman, Charlie Koeber, Terry Marchione, Doug Eisner, Ken Richter and Frank Rockwell**. Subs are sometimes needed due to travel and the like. Play begins at 4:00 pm and ends around 8:00 pm with time out for dinner.*



## Poker Club 4

**Chuck Bobinecz**

Our April 27<sup>th</sup> session for Poker #4 will be hosted by a new member of our group Sir **Joe Stengel**. We all asked him the same question. Are you related to Casey? He said that he might be a distant relative, he wasn't sure. He also said that he is asked that question all the time.

Our May session will be hosted by our March big winner Sir **Rich Hanford**.



## Old Money Poker

### Group 6

**Al Twyford**

Poker Group #6 met on Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> at **Bob Larson's** home in Pleasant Hill. Players were **Rich Ahlf, Norm Baietti, Frank Lucas, Harvey Oxman, Al Twyford**, and host **Bob Larson**. Missing players were **Brad Hatcher, Sid Landman and John Gray**. **John** was in Hawaii celebrating his honeymoon with his new lovely wife **Paula**. We had some interesting games. First **Al** drew a King-8 full house on five card draw. Next, **Rich** and **Bob** drew identical perfect low ball hands and split the pot. Our big winner was **Bob** with plus \$15, **Norm** plus \$2. Losers were **Al** minus \$3, **Rich** minus \$4, and **Frank** minus \$10. **Harvey** broke even. We drank beer and wine and snacks provided by our host **Bob**. Our next game is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at **Norm Baietti's** home in Walnut Creek. Everyone will be looking to get back some of **Bob's** winnings.

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Larry Fitzgerald and Pat Lucia** in conversation before the start of the April 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon

**Mike Conners, Jim Sanders, and Dan Holland**

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



**Ron Binder & Ron de Golia**, sharing a good laugh before the April 20th luncheon



## Activities Coordinator

**Jerry Kaplan**

The number of Branch 146 Activities available to members, both new and old, continues to grow! During the last few months, a second group playing Mexican Train Dominoes (Dos) has begun monthly play and is off to a great start, thanks to chair **Dick Woodman**. A new **Book Group**, chaired by Sir **Chuck Campbell**, is reading recent best sellers and getting together to discuss the book's merits. Contact **Chuck** at [Charmarcam2@att.net](mailto:Charmarcam2@att.net) to learn more about the new Book Group and help select the next book to be read and discussed.

A third **Men's Duplicate Bridge Group**, chaired by Sir **Sid Landman**, is also up and running with a full complement of players. Substitutes are always welcome to sign up since, at times, some of the regulars are not available to play. Contact **Sid** at [sidlandman@aol.com](mailto:sidlandman@aol.com).

It looks like a third (!) **Mexican Train Dominoes Group** could be starting soon. Several Sirs have expressed interest in either learning how to play or joining a group. Since I can't remember everyone who has mentioned this to me, I ask that anyone who is interested in the formation of a new group, please contact me ASAP at [mtdana@aol.com](mailto:mtdana@aol.com) or you can call 925-930-7076). I will set up a meeting with those folks to see if there is sufficient interest in forming a new group.

There was interest a few months ago in forming a new **Poker Group**. Not sure if that interest is still out there. Please call or write to me if you are interested in playing poker with some fellow Sirs. Finally, if there are any new ideas for a Branch Activity, and you are willing to help get it started please let me know and I'll do what I can to help organize it and make it happen.



## Book Nook

**Hank James**

The Book Nook will be open at the Ladies Day May meeting. Plan to bring your book donations that accumulated during our three month hiatus. Your fellow Sirs and their Ladies Day guests will enjoy them. Here is an idea for you: Ladies particularly enjoy cookbooks, so review your stash and donate the ones you haven't looked at for the past year.

Also you may want to review your "To read" list—you might just find that book on the top of your list at the May Book Nook.

The Book Nook project could use volunteers to help with the presentation, loading, unloading and storage of inventory. If you are looking to participate in a SIR activity, here is one that takes about two hours six times per year.

Contact **Hank James**: [hankjames@hankjames.com](mailto:hankjames@hankjames.com) or 925-351-7440 to volunteer.



## Lunch and Wine

**Syd Whalen**

*The LAW cooking group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at a different member's home with one member responsible for preparing the menu for the rest of the group.*

*We gather at 11:00 am for good conversation, appetizers and wine followed by lunch.*



Myles Ringle and John Alexander

Photo by Richard Hockenbrock



## Table Pool

**Bill Weinberg**

*We meet every Monday at 11:30 am at Masse's, 2721 North Main in Walnut Creek. No advance notice is necessary. Just show up and play. Cost is \$5 for as long as you want to play. This is a special rate that Masses gives SIR members. You can also play during the day, at other times, for the same \$5. Just tell them you're a member of SIR. We play mostly two man teams of eight ball, or a unique three-player game, called "Crazy Eights", depending on the number of participants. We usually play about 2 hours but not everyone stays for the final curtain. All Sirs in Area 2 are welcome.*







## Mexican Train Dominoes Group 1

**Jerry Kaplan**

The April Game Night was hosted on April 10<sup>th</sup> by Sir **Corrie Oranje** and his wife **Sue** at their lovely home in Concord (great views!). A full contingent of 18 players attended and all three tables were full of hopeful MTD players. Alas, with **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** returning, competition was a little stiffer. Sir **Bruce Borgman** was the big winner, with **Sherry Hockenbrock**, **Richard's** wife, taking second place, with **Terry** grabbing third.

There is only one more month (May) in the semi-annual standings that the group is tracking. After the first four months, **Terry**, **Bruce**, and **Sherry H.** are in the lead to take home part of the semi-annual pot, the total is expected to be valued at over \$70.00. A similar award will be made for the second half of the year, starting in June and ending in November.



## Cooking II

**Bob Yolland**

Cooking II had a great lunch at **Corrie Oranje's** home Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. All our members attended except **Ken Richter** who is on an extended trip. **Corrie** started us off with special extra aged Gouda cheese, Blue Cheese, Brie, special Dutch Herring cured in a wine sauce and dried Figs. These goodies were consumed with an abundance of nice wines. For the main course **Corrie** served Tierney Hogan's Kale, Bean and Sausage Stew accompanied by a special Cornucopia Salad and some special bread. Thank you **Corrie** for a fine meal and a great time.

Our next event will be at **Dennis Hallett's** home on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. As always our conversation tried to solve all the problems of the world but fell short a bit.



## Sunshine Report

**John Pearl**

Let us keep the following Sirs in our thoughts and prayers during May. We look forward to their continued healing and return to good health.

**Baha Zarah**

**Bob Schroder**

**Bob Darius**

**Joe Suta**

Please try to contact a sick Sir to offer support and encouragement during his illness. A friendly call is usually welcome. Cards and letters are always appreciated. Also, please take a minute to sign the get-well cards that are across from the sign-in tables at our monthly meetings.

If you are aware of an ill Sir, please let me know by e-mail or phone so that our SIR membership can be advised.

**John Pearl**, Sunshine Chair

[mcpearl@astound.net](mailto:mcpearl@astound.net)

925-934-6920



As Mexican Dominoes Group I closes out another month, **Jerry & Susan Kaplan**, **Jeff Baily**, **Bruce Borgman**, **Corrie Oranje**, and **Barbara Stedman** gather to compare their scores



**Sig Kalteis**, **Alicia Baily** and **Rob Melrose** ponder their next move at the height of game play



**Cliff Perkins & Bill Dastic** at the April 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon



## Bocceball

### Martin Lyle

We play the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays May through October at 8:30 am at Concord Bocce Courts in Newhall Park, Concord near the corner of Turtle Creek and Ayers Roads. Rain Cancels play.

#### Notice

Now is the time we announce the start of the Bocce Ball season. Our first play will be Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the time and location shown above. We are planning for good turnouts from the regular players plus any new players that would like to learn this simple game. Rain cancels play. Ladies welcome.

[mvlyle@yahoo.com](mailto:mvlyle@yahoo.com)



## Bowling

### Larry Mitchell

Our big event of the year, the Branch 146 Bowling Tournament, took place in March and we had a turn out of 102 bowlers. The two day event had many local winners but none were from Branch 146, because, for various reasons, none of

our guys bowled in it!

We are nearing the end of the winter SIR bowling with **Larry Mitchell** and **Jim Adams** still in contention for first place. As soon as this league is over the shorter summer league will begin.

This would be an excellent time for anyone interested in bowling to join us, no experience necessary. **Larry Mitchell** 925-798-5440.



## Couples Dining Out

### Bruce Borgman

The next event for our Couples Dining Out activity will be on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. We have negotiated a wonderful menu at a Thai restaurant "discovered" by Colin Holland and Bill Klein - Amarin Thai Cuisine Restaurant. Many of you may have been to this fixture on the Lafayette dinner circuit – it has been there for over 19 years. The restaurant has been acclaimed by Diablo magazine as the best Thai restaurant for over five years, so you are sure to enjoy this dinner occasion.

This will be a fixed menu dinner with two appetizers – chicken satay and an Imperial roll, followed by a wonderful chicken coconut soup with lemongrass broth, mushrooms and baby corn, and three entrees for everyone: a mild chicken curry, a grilled honey pork, and a shrimp pad Thai. The dessert is fried bananas and coconut ice cream. The entire meal, including tax and tip is only \$40 per person. We will be taking over the whole restaurant, thus will need a minimum of 40 diners with a maximum of 48.

We will start at 5:30 pm with our no host cocktail time - wine and beer is very reasonable. The corkage is a very reasonable \$10 if you wish to bring your own bottle. Dinner will start at 6:15 pm.

The restaurant is located at 3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Parking is somewhat limited in the area so you may want to carpool. We encourage you to confirm a spot at this special dinner by mailing a check made out to Branch 146. Send to **Bruce Borgman**, 3611 Winchester Place, WC 94598 – email [bgborgman@aol.com](mailto:bgborgman@aol.com) if you have any questions. See you there!



## Book Group

### Chuck Campbell

The new Book Group had its first meeting on April 20th at **Chuck Campbell's** house. Attending were **Peter Gates, Paul Dubow, and Walt Busenius**. We discussed the Bill O'Reilly book "Killing Patton". We all agreed that Patton was an incredible field commander but O'Reilly's conspiracy theory was a stretch, however, there was insufficient evidence to prove or disprove the idea.

For the next read the Book Group will select one of the following :

- "The Bully Pulpit" by Kerns Goodwin
- "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed
- "Phantom" by Jo Nesbo

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact **Chuck Campbell** [charmcam2@att.net](mailto:charmcam2@att.net)



Photo by Bill Schultz

**Pete McNeill, Steve Siljestrom, Ron Binder, Joe Fuchs, Bob Mehus, and Jim Barry** enjoy away golf at San Ramon CG





## Travel Opportunities

Ken Richter

### Day Trips

**June 7, 2015: The Book of Mormon** This musical by Trey Parker and Matt Stone is the winner of nine Tony Awards including Best

Musical. The New York Times calls it the best musical of this century. The price includes round trip motor coach from Walnut Creek to San Francisco and ticket in rows 13 or 14 center orchestra. Cost is \$144 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**October 10, 2015: Fleet Week on the San Francisco Belle** You will enjoy watching the Blue Angels perform their air show aboard the San Francisco Belle Sternwheeler. There is no better vantage point on the bay to see the show. The price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, a hosted buffet lunch aboard the Belle, free flowing champagne and background music from an onboard D.J. Cost is \$128 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**December 7, 2015: The Holidays are Blooming in the Valley** The first stop will be at the Hilmar Cheese Factory with a guided tour of their facility, followed by a hosted buffet lunch. After lunch there will be time to shop in the Country Store and sample gourmet cheeses. The next stop is at Duarte Nursery to view their amazing holiday poinsettias. A large selection of poinsettias in a variety of colors and species will make your choice of a favorite a difficult decision. Price includes roundtrip motorcoach ride from Walnut Creek, buffet lunch and driver gratuity. Cost \$54 pp. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

### Longer Trips

**July 22-28, 2015: Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** This trip will include baseball games in New York and Boston. The highlight will be the Baseball Hall of Fame and induction ceremonies at Cooperstown. Travelers will enjoy home pick-up, airport transfers, professional tour host, round trip airfare, 6 nights' accommodations, all taxes and gratuities. Cost \$2,975. Contact **Ken Richter** 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 21-Sept 12, 2015: Treasures of France. A River Journey From Normandy to Provence** A 22 day river cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture and the

ms River Discovery II. The highlights of the trip will be visiting Paris, Beaujolais & Burgundy regions, Lyon, and other towns along the rivers as well as the D-Day beaches of Normandy. Prices range from \$6,499 to \$8,299, which include airfare, 22 nights' accommodations, 59 meals, 17 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, all transfers, luggage handing overseas, and beer or wine at dinner. Pre and post trips are available. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-698-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

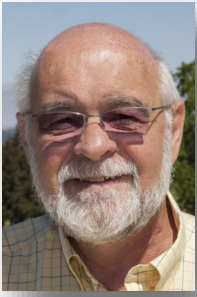
**Aug 21- Sept 1, 2015: Paris & Highlights of Normandy. A Seine River Cruise** A 12 day cruise aboard the deluxe ms River Venture with visits to Paris, D-Day beaches of Normandy, Vernon, Honfleur, and Rouen. The prices range from \$3,699 to \$6,199 and include 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 9 sightseeing tours with audio headsets and beer or wine at dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br146) 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).

**Aug 31- Sept 12, 2015: French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy, Beaujolais & Provence** A 12 day river cruise on the ms River Discovery II with visits to Lyon, Avignon, Vivier, and Beaujolais & Burgundy Regions. The prices range from \$3,999 to \$6,649. Trip includes 10 nights' accommodations, 29 meals, 8 sightseeing tours with audio headsets, and beer or wine for dinner. Two for one airfare is available plus pre & post trips. Contact **Ken Richter** (Br 146) 925-689-6217 or [KERichter@astound.net](mailto:KERichter@astound.net).



Sir Corrie Oranje instructs new members Fred Reich and Lauren DeLaurenti how to improve their golf score with effective use of the pencil eraser!





## Wine Tasting

**Rob Melrose**

Forty one people attended our April Wine Tasting event at the home of **Bruce Borgman** and **Sue Sheldon**.

The day matched our surroundings - beautiful. We tasted ten whites and nine reds from Sonoma and Napa. **Al Munayer**, **Sue Busenius** and **Jean Shebanek** won bottles of wine. **Al** for reds, **Sue** for whites, and **Jean** for our lucky number drawing. Our next event will be held July 22<sup>nd</sup>.



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Everyone is anxiously awaiting the announcement of the wine drawing winners



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Al Munayer & John Boyan** enjoying a sample of red wine or was it white for **John**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Chuck Bates, Dale and Joanne Haukland, Lo McCarley, Myra Gordon, Ann Gates, Polly Fleischer (friend of Chuck), and Melanie & Bill Baltezare**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

**Susan Busenius, with Barbara Stengel, Gabriela Bishop Diane Munayer, and Sherry Hockenbrock**



Photo by Richard Hockenbrock

Wine Tasting Party (WTP) with **Tony Greco, Brad Hatcher, Linda Boyan, Cindy Greco, Helene and Al Twyford, and Sandy Wagner**





## Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1

**Doug Eisner**

The Men's Duplicate Bridge Group 1 played 3 tables at **Jim Jackson's** home on April 9<sup>th</sup>. **Bob Yolland** and **Jim Jackson** blasted out of the starting blocks in the morning session with 19.0 pts and 18.0 pts, respectively, threatening to make the game a runaway. These scores are equivalent to 79% and 75% games and are the highest morning scores recorded in many years. The other players feared themselves doomed to be also-rans. However, in the afternoon session, **Bob** and **Jim** became everyone's favorite targets. Fortunately for them, they had a large enough morning lead to squeeze out narrow victories for first and second place. **Jim** took first place with 30.0 pts, 63%, while **Bob's** 29.5 pts, 61%, was good enough for second place. **Doug Eisner's** 27.0 pts captured third place.

We will return to our usual third Monday schedule in May and maintain that schedule for the balance of the year. Our next game will be Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at **Bill Rees'** house.



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 1

**Lo McCarley**

**Carl and Anne Johnson**

**Carl and Anne Johnson** hosted eight couples for a gala evening of duplicate bridge on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed playing bridge and also enjoyed **Anne** snacks and **Carl's** wines. As for the bridge results, **George Zunic** and **Susi Cherry** came in first with 39 points. **Bob** and **Janet Yolland** with 37 points came in second and third place with 35 points were **Carl and Anne Johnson**. In fourth place were **Margot Somerville** and **Daphne Merritt**. **Lo** and **Sue McCarley** will host the next couples duplicate bridge on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Couples Party Bridge

**Dave Pierce**

**Doug and Patti Eisner**

**Doug and Patti Eisner** hosted all the regulars on April 7<sup>th</sup>. It's a good thing March Madness was about over so that some players could tear themselves away from the TV to participate in our mad scramble for makeable contracts. At the end, huge basketball fans (and former Final Four attendees) **John and Linda Boyan** scrambled home in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 2340 pts. **Dave and Joan Pierce** survived down three doubled and vulnerable to place 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2990 pts. Our gracious hosts **Doug and Patti** (who collected that 800 penalty) aced them out for 1<sup>st</sup> with 3090 pts. Then they topped off the evening with a delicious dose of cherry pie. What madness will May bring? **Dave Pierce**, 925-932-3877



## Couples Duplicate Bridge 2

**Terry Marchione**

First, a big thank you to **Jim Adams** for chairing this group for the past 4 years; **Jim** has elected to step down and will be replaced by **Terry Marchione**. Our April session was held on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> and was hosted by **Lynn and Dasha Freeman**. The bridge itself was overshadowed by **Dick DeVoe** showing up with a brand spanking new I-Phone. We never thought we would see that day since we suspect **Dick** still uses a rotary dial phone at home.

As far as the results go, **Dave and Joan Pierce** (24 points) barely edged out **Doug and Patty Eisner** (23.5 points) for 1<sup>st</sup> place, while the **Marchiones** finished 3<sup>rd</sup> (21.5 points). The May meeting will be held on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the home of **Dave and Joan Pierce**.



## Party Bridge

**Fred Bolton**

We played two tables of bridge at the home of **Fred Bolton** on April 6<sup>th</sup>. First place went to **Bob Yolland** with 4780 points, second to **Lo McCarley** with 4310 pts, and third to **Max Hinkle** with 3920 pts. Our next game will be at the home of **Lo McCarley** on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 10 am at various members' homes. Contact **Fred Bolton** for details. Bring a lunch.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over!



## GOLF

### Ed Marlovits

Did you know that a golfer has only a 1 in 5 probability of playing to his handicap? The odds of doing better than that increase exponentially with each stroke further under par. So

congratulations are due to **Steve Sprague** who shot a net 59 -- 12 strokes under his handicap -- a feat that is rare indeed.

**Paul Masta** has been welcomed as a new member of the golf committee. **Paul** is taking **Steve Conte** place who has left the branch because he has moved to Granite Bay. We also welcome new golfers **Loren DeLaurenti** and **Steve Ybarra** who joined the Tuesday Golf activity in mid-April.

Branch 146 Golf is hosting the SIR Area 2 invitational scramble at Deer Ridge. Branch 146 will be well represented. Fourteen of the 32 teams participating in that event will be from Branch 146. The top teams in the invitational will go on to compete in the finals in late summer.

*Golf is one of our most popular activities with over 100 registered golfers. We are fortunate to have a large assortment of venues and formats. We play Tuesdays at Boundary Oak. Players are randomly paired and starting tee times are emailed to each player. In addition to regular stroke play, we have many Tuesday tournaments specifically set up for our players. In the summer we also have "away golf" at nearby courses and State SIR Golf offers numerous other fun events at interesting courses.*

*Since we have so much going on, we have found it necessary to publish a weekly golf email (GEM) outlining upcoming events and results from past events. All of our golfers receive GEMs. If you would like to be included in the distribution, please email us at [sir146golf@gmail.com](mailto:sir146golf@gmail.com).*



Your Golf Committee: **Ed Marlovits, Bill Schultz, Joe Fuchs, Paul Masta, Frank Rockwell, Steve Conte, Terry Marchione, and Dave Steinberg**



## Nine Hole Golf Group

### Verner Laursen

*The SIR 146 golf group tees off at 9:30 am at the Diablo Hills Golf Course on most Thursdays. The exceptions are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday when we normally go to the SIR luncheon.*

*If you are interested let me know and I will put you on my list. On Monday I will send out an email asking who is coming for golf, who is walking and who plans to stay for lunch? On Wednesday I will send out an email setting forth the pairings for Thursday morning. Thursday morning there may be adjustments based on who did or did not show up. The lunch, most of the time, is better than our golf game. [vlaursen@astound.net](mailto:vlaursen@astound.net)*

If you need help with lining up your putts, look for the app, [Breakmeter](#), for your phone.



## Couples Golf

### Paul Masta

The SIRS Couples Golf Group had a successful kick off at Rancho Solano Golf Course in Fairfield on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Seven couples signed up for the event hosted by **Ken and Elaine Donnelly**.

First place low combined net winners were **Larry Gray** and **Sharon Nelsen** while **Terry** and **Sharon Marchione** and **Jim Barry** and **Penny Gray** tied for second place. The weather and course conditions were great. After play cocktails were enjoyed by all. The next outing will be sponsored by **Jim** and **Ann Burk** at Boundary Oak May 27<sup>th</sup>.

We play at local courses on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month April thru October. Monthly tournaments are planned by volunteer coordinator couples who schedule the golf course and choose the tournament format. Emphasis is on fun contests involving both players and contributions. We enjoy the awards session and socializing after every tournament.

We have room for new members so please contact **Paul Masta** if you are interested in joining the group. 925-933-3612 or [pamasta03@yahoo.com](mailto:pamasta03@yahoo.com).

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, "For fast relief"



## Area Two Events

### Mac User Group (MUG)



The Mac Users Group is back to the first Monday of every month at the Thurman Casey Library at 10 am. We finish by noon. **Max Burchett** and **Verner Laursen** are the leaders and we try to help Mac users with their questions or problems. Since we are using Macs we don't have problems, but only need some help in how to accomplish the task. We do have suggestions on software and where to get the best deals on products related to your Mac.

If you have or may have an interest please contact us and we will put you on our mailing list. If you are on the list, you will receive an email from us from time to time and I will let you know about items that are of interest to Mac users.

### Area 2 \$ums Investment Group

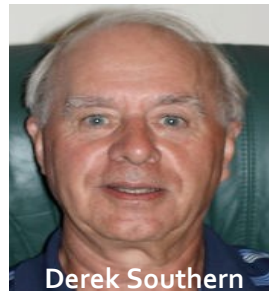
The Area 2 \$ums Investment Group will meet on Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Legends restaurant at the Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

Our guest speaker in May will be Jim and Sue Breedlove, of Breedlove Insurance in Orinda. Sue and Jim will discuss "*Insurance For Seniors: Medicare and More*". They will explore the types of Medicare coverage, the rules for when you can get and change your coverage, and why you might want to. The goal is to minimize your medical insurance costs. If there's time, they also explore why a senior might want to have life insurance as well.

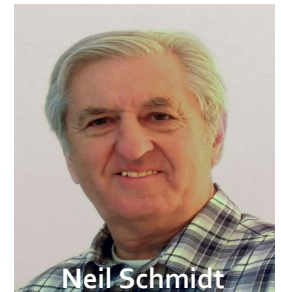
Jim was born and raised in Tyler, Texas and worked his way West over the years. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from MIT and a PhD from Rice. He also has an MBA from the University of New Mexico. Jim held numerous technical positions before forming Breedlove Insurance. He specializes in Medicare and life insurance.

Sue is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin and graduated from Arizona State University. After a long

### Computers and Technology



PCs



The Area 2 Computer and Technology Group advises all Sirs and their guests that our next meeting will be at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am.

**Neil Schmidt** will talk about *TV Streaming*. He will cover the different options and methods for connecting your TV to the Internet and explain some of the free, as well as paid, things you can do with a connected TV besides streaming Netflix movies. The available devices and services are rapidly changing. Come to the meeting and find out what is currently available and where this technology is heading. A preview of **Neil's** talk can be found at <http://a2cat.sirinc2.org>

As always, coffee and cookies are available before and during the meeting. In addition, there is Barry's nifty freebies raffle. Odds of winning are better than one in ten. There will be no meeting in June, we will reconvene on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Meetings of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group are held the 3rd Thursday of each month (except June and December) from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned user, we try to offer something for everyone. Some months we ask for a donation of \$5 to cover the cost of the hall rental, coffee and cookies, while other months are free.*

career in corporate sales, Sue specializes in health and long term care insurance.

The Legends restaurant opens at 7:00 am, so come early and have a leisurely breakfast with your colleagues prior to the meeting. Plan to attend this meeting and bring a prospective Sir.

Co-Chairmen: **Gary Moore** (Br-174) 925-254-8742  
**David Sutton** (Br-8) 925-686-0158  
**Leary Wong** (Br-8) 925-457-0807

### Golfers at Monterey Mashers week long event

Photo by Ann Hallett



Photo by Ann Hallett

